

also for a more general audience, that merits reading by all interested in biology. Several copies should be made available in the libraries of high schools and academic institutions.

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BOOK REVIEW

Tabanini of Thailand above the Isthmus of Kra (Diptera: Tabanidae). John J. S. Burton. 165 pp. 1978. Entomological Reprint Specialists, Los Angeles, California. \$15.00.

Female Tabanini are well known blood suckers, whereas the males mostly feed upon honeydew and on juices of flowers. These flies play an important role in spreading agents of certain infectious diseases such as Surra to livestock—especially virulent in equine species. Tabanini also play a role in the spread of tularemia to man. The biological diversity and economic importance of gadflies has been the subject of many scientific papers. Although the oriental tabanid fauna is unusually rich, it remained the least known up to now. Therefore this excellent study is very important and it is useful not only insofar as the tabanid fauna of Thailand and southeast Asia is concerned, but also for the whole oriental zoogeographic region.

In twelve chapters the author presents detailed information about the economic importance of gadflies, collections made in Indochina, superspecific taxa of Tabanini with reference to Thailand, the species concept, field procedures, descriptions of species, and a key to females. The interesting and detailed study of the tribe Tabanini comprises 81 species, of which 31 are described as new and 24 nominal taxa are newly synonymized. For many species lectotypes are given and some new generic combinations are proposed. The study is illustrated with 80 excellent figures. The last chapter deals with other species involved or implicated in the transmission of disease agents in the Indochina area.

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